

## Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/003,519

Examiner

Cheryl N Hawkins

Applicant(s)

HARTMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on June 3, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,7,9,11 and 15-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 January 2002 and 03 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/26;3/1;5/17;6/29
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11, and 15-31 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to Claims 1 and 29, the prior art of record to Sakamoto (US 6,244,321) discloses a splicing system configured to splice successive rolls of supply web, the system comprising a first spindle configured to support a first supply roll comprising a first web material; a second spindle configured to support a second supply roll comprising a second web material; and a splicing station comprising a first knife element configured to cut the first web material; a second knife element configured to cut the second web material; a first staging area configured to hold an end portion of the first web material; a second staging area configured to hold an end portion of the second web material; and a pair of rollers configured to form a splice between the first web material and the end portion of the second web material or between the second web material and the end portion of the first web material (Figure 1). The prior art of record does not disclose or provide any suggestion for modifying the splicing system disclosed by Sakamoto to include staging areas which are configured to hold an end portion of the first or second web material in a fixed position or a pair of pinch rollers which are spaced apart and form a splice by coming together.

As to Claim 21, the prior art of record to Cristiani (US 3,738,587) disclose a splicing system capable of splicing successive rolls of supply web, comprising a first and second spindle configured for supporting a first and second roll of web material, respectively, and for directing

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the first and second web materials toward a splicing station; the splicing station comprising a knife element for cutting the first web material as it passes through the splicing station; a staging area where an end of the second web material can be placed and held for splicing; and rollers positioned on either side of the first web material for closing on the first web material to form a splice; and a control capable of simultaneously closing the rollers on the first web material and actuating the knife element to cut the first web material, wherein the knife element comprises a movable cutting blade (Figure 1). The prior art of record does not disclose or provide any suggestion for modifying the splicing system of Cristiani to include a fixed cutting blade, an anvil for pressing the first or second web material against the cutting blade, or a knife element motor configured to move the anvil against the first or second web material and withdraw the anvil from the first or second web material.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

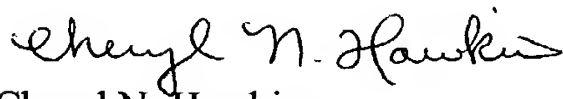
### ***Conclusion***

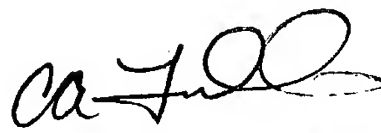
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl N Hawkins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A Fiorilla can be reached on (517) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Cheryl N. Hawkins  
August 20, 2004

  
CHRISTOPHER A. FIORILLA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
SPE, AU 1734